GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3484
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2016
Liberalised Visa Policy to Boost Trade
Venugopal Shri K. C.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to roll out a liberalised visa policy to boost services trade in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government has made inter-ministerial consensus over this issue;
(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
(e) whether the Government has any proposal to club different visa categories such as tourist, business, medical and conference into one and long-term one and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) to (e) : A liberalized visa regime helps in promotion of trade in services in different modes of supply particularly, Mode 2 which includes tourism, medical value travel and education services. The Department of Commerce accordingly advocates for a liberal regime with adequate safeguards and works with Ministry of Home Affairs who deals with the subject. As per Ministry of Home Affairs, rationalization and simplification of the visa regime is a continuous process. A proposal to further liberalize the visa policy is under consideration in Ministry of Home Affairs in consultation with all stakeholders.

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